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Works of Artistic Beauty, Stereoscopic Views

30) 5996 The Road to the Pyramids, Egypt

We have crossed the river Nile from Cairo, leaving the city behind us, and are facing west. It is nearly five miles from here to those world-famous pyramids on the edge of the vast, yellow-brown sands of the Libyan desert. The nearer one is the Great Pyramid of Khufu (Cheops); the Sphinx stands farther to the left (south) at this side of the other large pyramids. The summit of that tallest pyramid stands more than 450 feet above the drifting sands, where its base covers nearly thirteen acres.

"The beautiful lebbek trees which line the road on either hand, planted by Ismail Pacha, make the road to the pyramids shaded and delightful in a land where shade is a rarity and the sun beats down with fierce and almost vertical rays. . . . Beside the road flows one of the innumerable irrigation canals. . . . At the foot of the bluff on our extreme left you discern the houses of the modern village of Kafr. Little do the peasants who dwell in these villages dream of the life which once teemed and swarmed in busy streets occupying these very fields before us. For here lay the residence city of the fourth dynasty, the royal residence of the splendid Pharaohs who built the pyramids before us. . . . Now all that remains of the city is a scanty remnant of the wall. . . . It is not impossible that the first Pharaoh of the dynasty, having selected that desert headland as the site of his pyramid, located his residence city at this place also in order that he might always be able personally to inspect the progress of the mighty monument which was to be his eternal resting place."

(From "Egypt Through the Stereoscope" by James H Breasted, Ph.D., with twenty patent maps and plans. Copyright, 1905, by Underwood & Underwood.)

The road to the Pyramids from near Cairo, Egypt.
Route des Pyramides près du Caire, Egypte.
Die Straße von Cairo nach den Pyramiden, Egypten.
Camino de las Pirámides cerca del Cairo, Egipto.
Väg till Pyramiderna från närheten af Cairo, Egypten.
Дорога къ Пирамидамъ изъ Каиро, Египетъ.